

REMARKS

This Reply is submitted in response to the non-final Office Action dated October 10, 2007. Claims 1-10 remain present in this application. In the present Office Action claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,341,271 (hereinafter “Salvo”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,204,763 (hereinafter “Sone”). Applicants have amended Applicants’ specification to correct a number of typographical errors. No new matter has been entered with the amendments to the specification.

Applicants believe that a brief overview of Applicants’ claimed subject matter may help move this case toward allowance. As is set forth in Applicants’ independent claim 1, a store inventory management system includes: a computer system, a communication interface between the computer system and a universally accessible database, and an inventory control element executable on the computer system. The computer system is configured to access a database of current food-related inventory for a store and a database of food-related orders for the store. Selections of food-related items that are absent from a plurality of homes are accessible at the computer system via the universally accessible database according to a plurality of universal identifiers each respectively associated with one of the plurality of homes. The inventory control element is configured to adjust future food-related orders for the store according to current food-related inventory, ordered food-related inventory, and the selections of food-related items that are absent from the plurality of homes.

With respect to the rejection of Applicants’ independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicants agree that Salvo fails to explicitly disclose ‘food related inventory’. Moreover, Applicants note that Salvo is merely directed to an inventory management system that is capable of monitoring inventory amounts of a single inventory user (e.g., at a manufacturing site or an inventory vendor site), automatically placing orders for replacement inventory with an inventory supplier (based on predetermined criteria), and tracking delivery progress of the replacement inventory from the inventory supplier to the single inventory user.

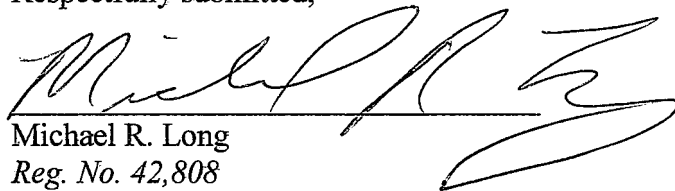
Furthermore, while Sone is directed to a household consumable item automatic replenishment system that seeks to maintain a desired inventory of household consumable items, the Sone system merely monitors household consumable items for a single household and orders replacement items for given items when the given items fall (or are predicted to fall) below desired levels. In sum, neither Salvo or Sone, alone or in combination, teach or suggest adjusting

future food-related orders for a store according to current food-related inventory, ordered food-related inventory and selections of food-related items that are absent from a plurality of homes.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' independent claim 1 is allowable over the applied art of record. Additionally, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-10 are also allowable for at least the reason that the claims depend on allowable claims.

In the event that the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would further prosecution of the present application, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at (512) 617-5521.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Long", written over a horizontal line.

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